

Cliff View Notes



Vol 2 No. 10 News and Notes For Cliffview Owners, Friends and Visitors December 2012

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Artaban The Fourth Wise Man

There's a story called "The Other Wise Man" by Henry Van Dyke. It's about a fourth person who is supposed to accompany the other three wise men on their journey to search for the newborn King. The name of the person is Artaban. As Artaban prepares for the journey, he takes with him a bag of precious stones to give to the baby King.

On his way to join the other three wise men, Artaban stops to help a poor person. The delay is just enough to make him miss his rendezvous with the others.

Artaban never does catch up with them. He constantly runs into people who need help. And he always stops to help them. Eventually, Artaban gives away all his precious stones.

As the story ends, Artaban is old and poor. He never realized his dream to meet the King of Kings and place at his feet the gift of precious stones.

The story on "The Other Wise Man" could end here. And if it did, it would be a sad story. It would be the story of a man who never realized his one big dream. But the story doesn't end here. One day Artaban is in Jerusalem. The city is buzzing with excitement. Authorities are about to execute a criminal. When Artaban sees the criminal, his heart skips a beat. Something tells him this is the King of Kings for whom he has been searching all his life. Artaban is heartbroken at

what he sees. He is even more heartbroken when he sees he can do nothing to help the King. Then something remarkable happens. Artaban hears the King's voice say to him, "Don't be brokenhearted, Artaban. You've been helping me all your life. When I was hungry, you gave me food. When I was thirsty, you gave me drink. When I was naked, you clothed me. When I was a stranger, you took me in." The story of Artaban is the story of many people in our world. Like Artaban, they begin life with a dream of doing something great. But as time passes, circumstances beyond their control interfere with their dream. Eventually it disappears.

Consider a talented young woman who dreams of a professional career in business or art. But before she can launch her career, she meets someone and marries him. Soon they begin a family. As they do, the young woman's dream gradually fades, as did Artaban's. The woman ends up giving herself full-time to her young family.

The story of the woman could end here. And if it did, some people would consider it a sad story. It would be the story of a woman who never realized her one big dream. But the story doesn't end here. It won't end until some day in the future when Jesus says to the woman what he said to Artaban: "You've been helping me all your life. What you did for your family, you did for me."

Or consider the story of a talented young man who dreams of climbing the corporate ladder. He works hard and gives his all. But the breaks go against him. It's not his fault; it's just the way the ball bounces.

Through it all, however, the young man remains honest. He works hard; he remains faithful.

The story could end here. And if it did, some people would consider it a sad story. It would be the story of a man who never realized his one big dream.

But the story doesn't end here. It won't end until Jesus says to the man what he said to Artaban: "You've been helping me all your life. What you did honestly and faithfully, you did for me."

The Feast of the Epiphany reminds us that we all have a gift we can give to the King of Kings. And the story of "The Other Wise Man" reminds us that our gift is far more precious than those of the other three wise men.

Our gift is not a one-time gift of gold, frankincense, or myrrh. It's a full-time gift of love and service.

Some people may consider us foolish for giving this gift. But that's only because they don't know the end of the story. The story will end with Jesus saying to us what he said to Artaban: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me....."



The Birth of Jesus Christ is why we rejoice and celebrate this holiday. It's not the gifts, the bright lights or the music. It is Christ being born.

Cliffview Notes

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HELPFUL WEBSITES & PHONE NUMBERS

State Facilities

Natural Bridge State Resort Park General Information
(606) 663-2214 or 1-800-325-1710 (reservations) 2135 Natural Bridge Rd. Slade, KY 40376 Trail map & descriptions, park laws and regulations, lodging, camping, group meeting facilities, group programs
"Natural Bridge State Resort Park is hiking, arches, exploring, scenery, reflection, and making memories."

www.parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/nb

Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission

www.naturepreserves.ky.gov

The Skylift (606) 663-2922

www.naturalbridgekyskylift-and-giftshop.com

Red River Gorge National Geological Area (606) 663-8100

www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/cumberland/redriver_gorge.shtml

Gladie Cultural-Environmental Learning Center (606) 663-8100

www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/cumberland/gladie.shtml

Red River Gorge Trail Crew (Volunteers)

www.RRGTC.com

Leave No Trace – Outdoor Ethics

www.lnt.org

Kentucky State Parks - Create your own Experience.

www.parks.ky.gov

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Email stories, ideas, suggestions, news to:

jenny@jerryison.com



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Closed Sunday

Christmas Across America



All across America celebrating Christmas is a joyous, brightly lit occasion. From New York City's Empire State Building lit with green and red lights to the shore of Maui where Santa comes ashore in an outrigger canoe. In between we can witness almost as many ways to celebrate as there are people. We might enjoy the nutcracker performed by the New York City Ballet and more than 200 other companies nationwide. One might find a scarlet garbed Santa schussing down an icy slope in the Green Mountains of Vermont. In Washington D.C. the Georgetown Mall is dressed with more than a mile of evergreen boughs. A holiday visit to Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania finds the trees covered from top to bottom with so many lights they look like giant glowing gum drops.

Christmas carols echo through the world's largest known cave system during the Candlelight Carol Sing at Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky. "Way down yonder", the banks of the Cane River at Natchitoches Louisiana, are lit up by hundreds of strands of multicolored lights.

Further south, over half a million spectators watch the Fort Lauderdale Florida Holiday Boat Parade every year.

Heading out into the Midwest, we find the prairie sky ablaze with color above Minden, Nebraska. Every holiday season, the residents decorate the dome of their courthouse with thousand of hand-painted bulbs.

A little further west we witness a true display of the American Christmas Spirit. The residents of Gariholdi, Oregon send two Santa's helpers to Reno with a pair of 60 foot tall Douglas firs for the citizens of Reno, Nevada. The reason is simple - Christmas trees won't grow in the desert.

Los Angeles holds an annual "Hollywood style" Christmas parade. Santa parades down Hollywood and Sunset Boulevard accompanied by more than 100 screen stars.



Cookin' with Jenny - Hearty Breakfast



Just about every family or women's magazine for the past couple of months has recipes for traditional Christmas fare such as goose, turkey, ham etc. I realize that many of us will have relatives who may spend a night or two and will need to be fed breakfast. So, I am offering this hearty recipe. There are no onions because Jerry hates 'em but you could include 1/4 cup diced sweet onions with the potatoes.

The Red River Scramble

1/2 cup new red potatoes, cooked & cubed

1 Tbsp butter

1/4 lb. sausage, browned & drained well

1/4 lb. Canadian Bacon or regular bacon

1/2 each red & green bell peppers, diced

3 eggs, beaten

1/2 cup Cheddar cheese, shredded

1/2 cup Monterey Jack cheese, shredded

1/4 cup milk

Black pepper to taste

Dash of paprika

In a non-stick skillet, place butter and cooked potatoes over medium heat for 1 to 2 minutes. In a separate bowl, add black pepper, paprika and milk to beaten eggs and pour mixture over the potatoes. Scramble eggs, constantly lifting with fork to keep eggs fluffy and to ensure even cooking throughout. Top with sausage ham, bell peppers and cheese. Cover and cook about 1 to 2 minutes to allow cheese to melt. Serve with biscuits and pan gravy or with toast or pancakes.

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If that isn't enough to get you to give the gift of all-out adrenalin rush, we'll sweeten the pot. Now through Christmas, call **RRGZ** to buy your Gift Certificates and receive **20% off** just for mentioning the Cliffnotes! Thank you so much for being a loyal reader. We look forward to zipping with you!

Go to: www.redrivergorgezipline.com or call **1-855-ZIP-Tour** and **Zip Away!**

Natural Bridge State Resort Park's Fall Hours of Operation

All hiking trails are open from dawn to dusk throughout the year. Sandstone Arches Restaurant in the Hemlock Lodge is open. Breakfast: 7 - 10 am, Lunch: 11 - 3 pm, Dinner: 4 - 8 pm. Campgrounds and Skylift are closed for the season.

Hemlock Lodge's Gift Shop News

The Hemlock Lodge's gift shop is open and the Nature Store (located near Hoedown Island) is closed for the season. The Lodge gift shop offers a wide selection of Kentucky handcrafts and souvenirs. The lodge gift shop has a selection of Kentucky made sorghum, honey, cobbler, and sauces that will be the perfect country style accent for your holiday recipes. The entire Lodge including Stone Arches restaurant will close after Lunch, Dec 23rd and reopen for Dinner on the 26th. Stop by and see us!

For a complete list & information, visit our website at: www.parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortpark

Cliffview Resort Lodge and Activity Center

The Lodge is available for weddings, groups and retreats. The 8,000 square foot Activity Center can accommodate large groups for Workshops, Seminars, Business Meetings, Fund Raisers, Family Reunions. Square Dancing, anyone?

The Lodge at Cliffview

The Lodge is open with plenty of rooms available for the Holidays. Anyone needing overflow sleeping accommodations please call **606-668-6487**. Discounts available for Lee and Wolfe county residents.

Business Opportunity

Anyone interested in operating a coffee shop, internet cafe, small retail or deli business in Slade area on Rt. 11 contact Nancy Hamann- 606-668-6487. Space available for lease.

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